

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-5, 9, 13, and 16-33 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 19 being the independent claims. New claims 30-33 are sought to be added. Claims 1-5, 9, 13, 16-23, 28, and 29 are sought to be amended. Claims 6-8, 10-12, and 15 are sought to be canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Specification

Applicant has amended the paragraph at page 1 before "Field of the Invention" of the specification of the present patent application to comply with Section 201.11 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. Applicant has also amended the paragraph at page 2, lines 13-23; the paragraph at page 3, lines 5-14; the paragraph at page 4, lines 20 and 21; the paragraph from page 4, lines 22 to page 5, line 10; the paragraph at page 5, lines 23-26; the paragraph at page 6, lines 1-22; the paragraph from page 6, lines 25 to page 7, line 12; the paragraph from page 7, lines 22 to page 8, line 5; and the Abstract of the Disclosure at page 13, lines 1-15 to correct grammatical and typographical errors.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-13 and 15-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,742,905 to Pepe *et al.* (hereinafter "Pepe") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,559,860 to Mizikovsky (hereinafter "Mizikovsky"). (See Office Action at p. 2.)

Regarding claims 6-8, 10-12, and 15, Applicant has canceled these claims without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

Regarding claims 1-5, 9, 13, and 16-29, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Amended independent claim 1 recites (emphasis added):

A system for receiving and forwarding e-mail messages for a subscriber, the system comprising:

a server configured to be coupled to a network; and

an agent resident and operable on the server, the agent configured ***to compare a first characteristic of the e-mail messages***, received for the subscriber, ***to specific message characteristics provided by the subscriber and pre-stored on the server***, to generate a message ID for an e-mail message that has a characteristic match, to send an alert message to the subscriber when the characteristic match is found, and to execute instructions for forwarding the e-mail message that has the characteristic match, ***wherein the first characteristic is other than message sender information and message time information***, the alert message includes the message ID, and the instructions are associated with the message ID and are received from the subscriber in response to the alert message.

Each of independent claims 5, 9, 13, and 19 has been amended in a similar manner. These features are supported throughout the specification of the present patent application and particularly at the paragraph from page 4, lines 22 to page 5, line 10 and the paragraph from page 6, lines 25 to page 7, line 12 and at figure 1A.

Neither Pepe nor Mizikovsky, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches, or suggests comparing a first characteristic of the e-mail messages to specific message characteristics provided by the subscriber and pre-stored on the server, wherein the first characteristic is other than message sender information and message time information.

To the contrary, Pepe, at column 31, lines 34-52, recites:

This feature also allows the subscriber to predetermine the management of certain numbers. For an example, a subscriber may want to be notified in real time only if a calling party number matches that of an immediate family member, supervisor, or important client. In other cases, the subscriber may wish to have calls automatically rerouted to a default number, such as a voice mailbox or secretary. For a company which does business over a large geographic area, the subscriber may wish to have the phone call routed to different places based on the geographic origin of the call. For example, calls originating from New York or New Jersey may be routed to a sales representative for that area and calls originating from California are routed to a sales representative for that geographic area.

The call management feature allows the subscriber to predetermine call routing based on the time of day. For example, a subscriber may wish to have calls forwarded to a customer service staff during business hours and be personally notified of calls during non-business hours.

Similarly, Mizikovsky, at column 10, lines 31-53, recites:

While FIG. 3 schematically illustrates the format of an "alert with information" message transmitted on the forward voice channel in what has been referred to as an analog cellular telephone system, FIG. 4 schematically illustrates the format of an "alert with information" message that is transmitted on the forward digital traffic channel in a digital cellular telephone system. Here too, the message is transmitted as a succession of transmission frames comprising a packet 400, with each packet containing identifying data plus information words. As shown, the identifying data in a packet 400 includes message identifying bits 402, followed by bits 404 further identifying the type of alert, followed by useful message information 406. When packet 400 is included in an "alert with information" message, the message identifying bits 402 identify this message as an "alert with information" message. Bits 404 identify the type of "alert with information" message; and in the present example, the type of "alert with information" message is an incoming call with calling party identifying data. Word 406 includes a portion of that calling party identifying data, such as a plurality of digits included in the calling party

telephone number, a plurality of alphanumeric characters that may be used to identify the calling party, etc.

Thus, in each of Pepe and Mizikovsky, the characteristic of the message that is compared to the pre-stored characteristics is message sender information or message time information.

Accordingly, each of independent claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 19 is patentable over Pepe in view of Mizikovsky. Furthermore, because each of claims 2-4, 16-18, 20-29 depends upon claims 1, 5, 9, 13, or 19 and because of the individual distinctive features of each of claims 2-4, 16-18, 20-29, each of these claims is also patentable over Pepe in view of Mizikovsky. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider claims 1-5, 9, 13, and 16-29, remove the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and pass these claims to allowance.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 30-33. The features recited in each of new claims 30-33 are supported throughout the specification of the present patent application and particularly at the paragraph from page 4, lines 22 to page 5, line 10 and the paragraph from page 6, lines 25 to page 7, line 12 and at figure 1A. Each of new claims 30-33 is patentable over Pepe in view of Mizikovsky because each of new claims 30-33 depends upon independent claims 1, 5, 9, or 13 and because of the individual distinctive features of each of new claims 30-33. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that new claims 30-33 be passed to allowance.

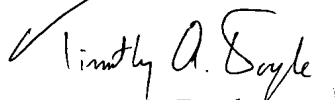
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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